



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), LOUISIANA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STUDY



## BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL PROGRAM

Vol. 3, Issue 1

FACT SHEET

August 2006

### **PROJECT NAME AND STATE**

Louisiana Coastal Area, Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDMAT) Program Study, Louisiana.

### **AUTHORIZATION**

This study is authorized through Resolutions of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Public Works, 19 April 1967 and 19 October 1967.

### **STUDY AREA**

The study area is Louisiana's coastal area from Mississippi to Texas.

### **BACKGROUND**

Louisiana is losing coastal wetlands at an alarming rate. Restoring these wetlands is imperative to protecting the state's abundant resources from devastating storms and hurricanes. A very promising option for restoring coastal wetlands and reducing land loss is the beneficial use of dredged material. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE-MVN) has the largest annual channel Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program in the nation and dredges an average of 70 million cubic yards (mcy) of material annually during maintenance dredging of navigation channels. Not all of this material is available for beneficial placement in the coastal ecosystem; however, there is the potential to use up to 30 mcy annually to enhance coastal wetlands through marsh creation, wetland nourishment, barrier island restoration, ridge restoration, and other techniques.

### **PROJECT PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The ten year, \$100 million LCA Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program will provide the

institutional framework to optimize the use of dredged material resulting from the maintenance of Federally maintained navigational channels to attain the LCA hydrogeomorphic and ecosystem objectives.

The goals of this program study are to 1) create, restore, and/or nourish coastal wetlands; 2) create or restore coastal landscape features, including barrier islands, chenier ridges and shorelines; and 3) provide protection to coastal wetlands or coastal landscape features. The costs associated with the program are those that are incurred above and beyond the ordinary costs associated with the USACE-MVN O&M dredging and disposal operations base plan. The base plan is determined by applying the Federal Standard which requires maintenance dredging and disposal activities to be conducted in the most cost effective, environmentally acceptable manner based on sound engineering. The State of Louisiana, acting through the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, is the non-Federal local sponsor and will cost share the estimated \$4.2 million study at a ratio of 50% Federal and 50% non-Federal. The study is recommended for Programmatic Authorization thus potentially allowing for individual beneficial use projects to be approved by the Secretary of the Army or by the Mississippi Valley Division (USACE-MVD), if delegated.

### **STATUS**

USACE-MVN is currently preparing the preliminary draft feasibility report for the LCA Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program Study. Submission of the draft feasibility report package to USACE Headquarters is scheduled for January 2008.